

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/CCA:WSSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT HAVANA

S E C R E T STATE 093477

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BELGRADE 1432 ACTION SECSTATE DATED FEB 22, 1978.

QUOTE: S E C R E T BELGRADE 1432

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: YO, PN

SUBJ: THE BELGRADE NONALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE:
CONVERSATION WITH PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR (VIRILIO BRANDFORD)

1. THE PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR IN BELGRADE (AN AWFUL BORE, BUT WELL CONNECTED WITH A NUMBER OF YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT AND PARTY OFFICIALS -- HE WAS A STUDENT HERE A DECADE AGO AND SPEAKS THE LANGUAGE -- AND OTHER NONALIGNED AMBASSADORS) RECENTLY MADE SOME INTERESTING COMMENTS ON THE UPCOMING BELGRADE NONALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR LATE JULY.

2. BRADFORD SAYS THERE ARE TWENTY-FIVE TO THIRTY NONALIGNED STATES CURRENTLY PLANNING, BECAUSE OF THE
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LOCATION, TO BOYCOTT THE BQOUO HAVAMA NONALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE. THESE INCLUDE SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, JORDAN, SOMALIA, SUDAN, CHAD, AND A NUMBER OF OTHER EAST AND WEST AFRICAN STATES. THE YUGOSLAVS, EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS DEVELOPMENT, ARE ANXIOUSLY LOBBYING IN FAVOR OF HAVANA IN AN ATTEMPT TO HEAD OFF A BLOW-UP HERE IN JULY. THE YUGOSLAVS HAVE ASKED HIM PERSONALLY, BRAMDFORD SAID,

TO INTERCEDE WPTH TORRIJOS TO PERSUADE THE PANAMAMIANS
TO LOBBY IN A SIMILAR FASHION, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE
LATIN AMERICAN NONALIGNED.

3. ACCORDING TO BRANDFORD THE CUBANS ARE WELL AWARE
OF THE POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION THIS JULY, AND RECOGNIZE
THAT THE SOMALIS WILL RAISE GOC INVOLVEMENT IN THE
HORN -- WHICH COULD LEAD TO A "CHAIN-REACTION" AGAINST
CUBA. CONSEQUENTLY, BRANDFORD PREDICTED THAT THE CUBANS
WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO "DISENGAGE" FROM THE HORN BY
NO LATER THAN THE END OF MAY.

4. THE PANAMANIANIS ARE WORKING HARD TO OBTAIN NONALIGNED
MEMBERSHIP FOR BOLIVIA, WHILE THE CUBANS ARE EQUALLY SET
AGAINST SUCH STATUS BECAUSE OF THE CHE GUEVERRA EPISODE.

5. AMBASSADOR BRANDFORD ALSO REMARKED THAT PRESIDENT
TITO HAD PERSONALLY ADVISED GENERAL TORRIJOS TO BE AS FLEXIBLE
WITH REGARD TO POTENTIAL US SENATE AMENDMENTS TO THE PANAMA
CANAL TREATY AS POSSIBLE. ACCORDING TO BRANDFORD, TITO'S
ADVICE MADE A SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT ON TORRIJOS AND IT IN
PART RESPONSIBLE FOR THE APPROACH THE GENERAL HAS TAKEN
TO THE ISSUE OF AMENDMENTS.
EAGLEBURGER UNQUOTE VANCE

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